

From the Corner: Government Works



This week is Public Service Recognition Week, a week set aside annually to recognize the amazing accomplishments of public servants in our great nation, around the world, and in our community. The theme this year is "Government Works." In that same spirit, on Wednesday

we will review some of the accomplishments of our Office in the past year and recognize employees for their years of dedication and service.

We at the Office of the Harris County Attorney receive satisfaction knowing that what we do—whether preparing contracts to build roads, acquiring land for flood control projects, defending law suits, encouraging high standards of ethical conduct, going after environmental scofflaws, or handling cases involving neglected children—benefits others. Even our daily tasks—redacting documents, opening files, delivering papers, answering phones, paying invoices, preparing petitions, advising our client representatives, or appearing in court—are vital to our ability to impact the world around us.

Each of us can be encouraged to know that our work is contributing to the wellbeing of the people of Harris County, and that when we all work together, our government works. Thank you for your service to the public.

[Click here](#) for more information on Public Service Recognition Week.

—Vince

Jennifer Fox, Tony Yet investigate site by helicopter



Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Fox visited, by way of helicopter, a site involved in one of her enforcement matters. Jennifer recently obtained a TRO ordering a wood and mulch facility operator to put out a mulch fire that had been burning for several weeks. Her fly-over revealed that the fire has not yet been put out and Jennifer will be back in court asking for a Temporary Injunction. Investigator Tony Yet accompanied Jennifer on the investigation of the site.

Johnson honored by South Texas College of Law

On April 24, paralegal Raychel Johnson received the Elizabeth A. Dennis Langdell Scholar Award at South Texas College of Law, where she is a law student. The Award is presented annually to a graduating student who has made significant contributions to the Langdell Scholar Program. Raychel has been teaching in the program since 2013 while working as a paralegal in the Protective Services Practice Group.



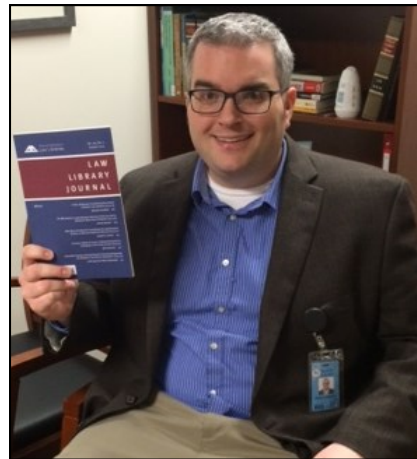
Professor Geoffery Corn and Raychel Johnson

Celebrating Milestones

The 2015 Annual Recognition Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 6, from 3 to 4 p.m., at the Jury Assembly Plaza, 1201 Congress.

Join County Attorney Vince Ryan in honoring those employees who have dedicated years of service to our Office. Refreshments will be served.

Library Dep. Director Lawson awarded best article



Congratulations are in order for Joe Lawson, Deputy Director of the Law Library. Joe's article, "What About the Majority? Considering the Legal Research Practices of Solo and Small Firm Attorneys," was awarded the Law Library Journal of the Year Award by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). Joe's article is published at 106 Law Library Journal 377 (2014). He'll receive his award at the 108th AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Philadelphia in July.

5 things YOU didn't KNOW about ME



April Whittaker is an Administrative Assistant with the Hospital District.

1. I am a DIY-er, whose artistry has been featured on the front page of the Houston Chronicle.

2. I once met former president George H. W. Bush during an internship at M.D. Anderson.

3. I am related to rapper "Snoop Dogg."

4. I competed in dance and gymnastics in high school.

5. I collect foreign currency.



WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE HARRIS COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, BOTH LAWYERS AND NON-LAWYERS, ADHERE TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ETHICS AS WE SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HARRIS COUNTY AND STRIVE TO BE THE BEST PUBLIC LAW FIRM IN THE UNITED STATES.



County Attorney [SharePoint](#)
County Attorney [Policy Manual](#)
County Personnel [Regulations](#)

County Attorney [Website](#)
Payroll Reports & Benefits [Online](#)
County Attorney [Directory](#)

Coming Attractions

The Harris County Law Library presents:
WestlawNext Training featuring Family Law Resources

When: May 11, from noon to 1 p.m.

Where: The Driscoll Courtroom, 16th Floor

MCLE: 1.0. Seating is limited. [Click here for details and to RSVP.](#)

"...service can have no meaning unless one takes pleasure in it.

When it is done for show or for fear of public opinion, it stunts the man and crushes his spirit.



Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served."

Mahatma Gandhi

Houston honors crime victims advocates



On April 28, the City of Houston honored area crime victims advocates during National Crime Victims Rights Awareness Week. Deputy Managing Attorney Chan Buckner and Paralegal Guilly Puente, who serve as Crime Victims Advocates for our Office, attended the proclamation ceremony at City Hall. Guilly and Chan work to ensure victims of violent crime are compensated through the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.

From left, Dominique Patterson, Andy Kahan, Guilly Puente, and Chan Buckner outside the Houston city council chambers.



City Councilwoman Ellen Cohen holds the document proclaiming Crime Victims Rights Awareness Week in Houston and honoring those who work on behalf of the victims of crime in Houston and Harris County.

William Gonzales joins Compliance as paralegal



William Gonzales

William Gonzales has joined the HCAO as a paralegal in the Compliance Practice Group. William recently moved to the Houston area from New York City. He is a 2011 graduate of City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Prior to joining our Office, William was a concierge with Brodsky Organization in Manhattan. He also served as a youth outreach volunteer at the Salem Temple Community Center in the Bronx.

Hector Morales joins Support Services



Hector Morales

Hector Morales has been hired to work on mail processing and other support services matters. He is a Master of Science candidate at the University of Houston College of Technology in supply chain and logistics technology and has a Bachelors of Science degree in Industrial Distribution from Texas A&M University.

Prior to joining our team, Hector worked in production control, manufacturing engineering, and lean manufacturing in the oil and gas field. He was also a Corps of Cadets member at A&M.

Keith Toler hired as Assistant County Attorney

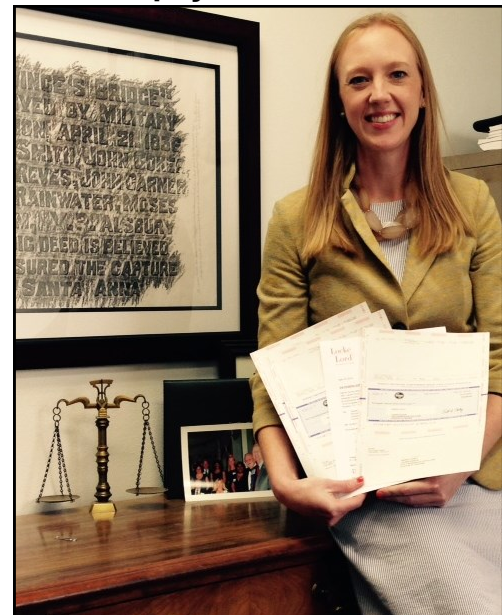
Keith Toler has joined our Office as an Assistant County Attorney in the Litigation Practice Group. Keith is a graduate of Rutgers School of Law where he was the business editor of the Rutgers Law Journal. He earned his bachelors degree in English from the University of Texas. Prior to joining our Office, Keith worked as a legal extern for the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court and the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Keith has also volunteered his time and legal skills at the Cathedral Justice Project in Houston.



Keith Toler

Lauren Hudson receives payment in first case

Assistant County Attorney Lauren Hudson received payment of \$19,341.50 in civil penalties, attorney's fees, and court costs for the first case that she filed as an Assistant County Attorney: *Harris County v. Kroger, Co.* Lauren has been a member of the Environment and Infrastructure Practice Group since April 2014. The suit was based on claims that the smell of rotting garbage at two grocery stores was so bad that it violated the Texas Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Disposal Act.



HCAO celebrates Administrative Professionals Day

